



# Department of Justice

United States Attorney A. Brian Albritton  
Middle District of Florida

Tampa                      Orlando  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
April 12, 2010  
<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/flm/pr>

Jacksonville                      Ocala                      Fort Myers  
CONTACT: STEVE COLE  
PHONE: (813) 274-6136  
FAX: (813) 274-6300

**FORMER UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE EMPLOYEE  
SENTENCED FOR THEFT OF GOVERNMENT PROPERTY AND  
CONSPIRING TO DEFRAUD THE UNITED STATES**

Jacksonville, FL - U.S. Attorney A. Brian Albritton announces that U.S. District Judge Marcia Morales Howard today sentenced David Douglas Johnson (age 51, of Lawtey, Florida) to one year in federal prison for theft of government property and conspiracy to defraud the United States. The court also ordered Johnson to repay the sum of \$19,753.54 to the United States Forest Service. Johnson had pleaded guilty on January 22, 2010.

Johnson is a former employee of the United States Forest Service. According to court documents, while an employee, he stole in excess of \$30,000 from the Forest Service. Johnson purchased items for his own personal use with his United States Forest Service credit card without reimbursement to the Service - among other things, an automobile scissor lift, a pressure washer, a welder, and a tire balancer. Johnson also took various construction materials from the Osceola National Forest which he was not allowed to obtain and sold the materials for scrap at a local recycling company.

Johnson also conspired to defraud the United States by forming a sham company named Gray Service and Equipment to secure government contracts that Johnson was prohibited from obtaining. The sham company then bid for and obtained government contracts on projects that Johnson was supposed to supervise and oversee as a Forest

Service employee. For one of the contracts, Johnson submitted daily supervision logs stating that he was supervising Gray Service and Equipment work - the work that he himself was performing. In this manner, Johnson was able to fraudulently obtain more than \$10,000 in contract payments from the United States Forest Service.

This case was investigated by the United States Department of Agriculture, Office of Inspector General, and the United States Forest Service. It was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Mac D. Heavener, III.